From: Minde Kornfeld
To: Siddiqui, Sumbul
Subject: HP Resolution
Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 2:57:13 PM

April 17, 2018

Cambridge City Council
Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA

Dear Councilor:

I am a long-time Massachusetts resident and I am writing as a concerned citizen and as member of the Leadership Board of the AJC New England which advocates for human rights, fights anti-Semitism and advocates for Israel's right to exist. Also, I was a founder and for many years served as a board member of the New England Israel Business Council. I have supported the strong economic ties between Israel and Massachusetts and which provide many jobs in Massachusetts and in Cambridge.

When I became aware of the proposed resolution to support a boycott of Hewlett Packard for doing business in Israel or with Israel's government that is going to be presented to the City Council by groups that are part of the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) movement which, in the words of its leaders, is dedicated to Israel's destruction, I had to write to advise you of my concerns about such a resolution and the process.

I respectfully oppose the lack of transparency and unfair singling out of Israel in this City Council Vote. As someone who is concerned about the city you live in and its public image, this resolution will have implications beyond HP and, if adopted, would tarnish the reputation of your city.

The Cambridge City Council should not abdicate its responsibilities to an interest group whose purpose is to demonize Israel. Any resolution of this kind deserves a full and fair public hearing, including inviting experts and interested parties to weigh in openly before action is taken.

Singling out Israel and HP, amongst all the nations, companies and conflicts in the world, and holding them to a unique ethical standard raises troubling issues about the Cambridge City Council. Thousands of American companies are working overseas and engaged in transactions that can be tied to questionable human rights practices; including numerous companies with Cambridge contacts.

In this instance, the Council is overlooking scores of other situations and electing to support dubious and largely unexamined claims against Israel made by an outside organization. If the Cambridge City Council elected to adopt a foreign policy that it applied without prejudice to nations and companies around the world, the issue of an ethical double standard would not be raised.

The BDS movement is detrimental to achieving peace. The establishment of a Palestinian state is a

goal we share but will not be realized by extreme and deceptive claims that belie the hard reality on the ground. There are many people of goodwill, who are working to bridge the divide between Israelis and Palestinians. Boycotts, like the one under consideration, undermine these peacemakers, fuel polarization, and strengthen the hands of those who reject co-existence.

I hope that you will consider my concerns and those of others who are contacting you and fellow Council members.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

B. Minde Kornfeld

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